

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04347 081659Z

63

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-14 USIA-04 OMB-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 IO-03 DRC-01

/080 W

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R 081500Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 718

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONSUL TANGIER

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN: M/V APOLLO, PO

SUBJ: YACHT APOLLO, ACCUSED OF LINKS WITH CIA, EXPELLED
FROM MADEIRA

REF: LISBON A-78; STATE 1337 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE TROUBLE-RIDDEN APOLLO, SOON AFTER ITS ARRIVAL
IN MADEIRA, GREETED BY A LEFTIST CROWN INTENT ON SEARCHING
IT ON SUSPICION THAT IT A CIA VESSEL. IN THE ALTERCATION WHICH
FOLLOWED THE CREW'S REFUSAL TO LET THE CROWN ON BOARD, 15
PERSONS INJURED. AFTER ALLOWING A SEARCH OF THE APOLLO'S
LAND-BASED OFFICES, APOLLO'S PARENT COMPANY DECIDED TO CLOSE
UP OPERATIONS IN THE ISLANDS AND SET SAIL. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 04347 081659Z

1. ACCORDING TO RECENT NEWS STORIES PUBLISHED IN THE

LISBON PRESS, THE YACHT APOLLO, PROPERTY OF OPERATION AND TRANSPORTATION CORP., LTD., AND WHICH OPERATED UNDER THE NAME OF CINDUSTA IN PORTUGAL, WAS THE OBJECT OF HOSTILE DEMONSTRATION BY MADEIRA LEFTISTS ON OCTOBER 4. FOLLOWING A RALLY OF FORCES LINKED TO THE UNIAO DO POVO DA MADEIRA LATE OCTOBER 3, A FEW HUNDRED PERSONS CONVERGED ON THE DOCK WHERE THE YACHT APOLLO HAD BEEN DOCKED SINCE THE PREVIOUS DAY WITH THE INTENTION OF SEARCHING THE SHIP. SHOUTING ALOGANS SUCH AS "DEATH TO THE CIA," THE CROWD WAS GREETED WITH JETS OF WATER SPRAYED ON THEM BY THE APOLLO CREW. IN RETURN, THE DEMONSTRATORS BEGAN THROWING ROCKS AND OTHER OBJECTS AT THE SHIP, INJURING 15 PERSONS ON BOARD AND CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE ACCORDING TO THE CREW. THE INCENSED AND WET LEFTISTS THEN PROCEEDED TO DUMP INTO THE OCEAN TWO CARS AND 10 MOTORCYCLES BELONGING TO THE CREW.

2. AFTER CUTTING THE MOORING ROPES, THE CROWN DECIDED TO HEAD FOR THE LOCAL CINDUSTA HEADQUARTERS TO SEE WHAT COMPROMISING MATERIAL THEY COULD FIND INSIDE. THEY WERE PREVENTED FROM ENTERING THE BUILDING BY ARMED FORCES UNITS. THE APOLLO CAPTAIN DID, HOWEVER, AGREE TO LET A DELEGATION OF 12 LEFTISTS AND JOURNALISTS ENTER THE PREMISES TO INSPECT THE DOCUMENTS. APPARENTLY NOTHING OF INTEREST WAS FOUND.

3. WHILE THE CINDUSTA OFFICES WERE BEING SEARCHED, THE APOLLO PARENT COMPANY OTC SENT WORD TO THE CAPTAIN TO CLOSE UP COMPANY OPERATIONS, A TASK WHICH WAS COMPLETED BY 0600 OCTOBER 4. SOON THEREAFTER, ACCORDING TO EXPRESSO, THE APOLLO RECEIVED ORDERS (WE DO NOT KNOW FROM WHOM) TO LEAVE THE ISLANDS. EXPRESSO SPECULATES THAT THE SHIP WILL NOT AGAIN BE WELCOME IN MADEIRA. THE NEXT PORT OF DESTINATION OF THE SHIP IS NOT KNOWN.

4. COMMENT: THE YACHT APOLLO HAS A KNACK FOR ATTTTRACTING ADVERSE PUBLIC ATTENTION AND TROUBLE WHEREVER IT SAILS, PROBABLY BECAUSE IT IS SO SECRETIVE, AND SUCH A LARGE AND UNUSUAL OPERATION. IT IS OFTEN ACCUSED OF BEING A CIA COVER AND OF USING ITS ALLEGED SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR DEVIOUS PURPOSES. IN THIS MOST RECENT INCIDENT, FOR EXAMPLE, EXPRESSO ASKS RHETORICALLY WHAT THE APOLLO WAS UP TO IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LISBON 04347 081659Z

THE ISLANDS, NOTING THAT CINDUSTA DOES LITTLE BUSINESS AND HAS FEW VISIBLE SOURCES OF INCOME, YET MANAGES TO MEET HEAVY COSTS. THE JOURNAL WONDERS WHY THE CREW TAKES SO MANY PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ISLAND'S BEACHES AND TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES. IF THE SHIP RETURNS TO LISBON, IT IS SURE TO MEET THE SAME HOSTILE CROWDS AS IN MADEIRA, BECOME FERTIME MATERIAL FOR LEFTIST SPECULATION, AND PROVIDE "EVIDENCE" THAT THE CIA IS INTERVENING IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

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